



CABINET

5:30 pm to 7:05 pm

12 June 2013

Present: Councillors Arthur (chair), Waters (vice chair), Bremner, Kendrick, Sands (M), Stonard

Also present: Councillors Stephenson and Wright

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS / PETITIONS

One petition was received in relation to the proposed sale of parking land at Earlham Park. The petition was introduced by Sandi George and was worded as follows:

"We the undersigned, are tired of Norwich City Council selling off or giving to, the UEA for their various development projects, our land, without it would seem, any regard to the Citizens of Norwich. Earlham Hall and Park were given to the Citizens of Norwich by the Guernsey Family so who gives the Council the right to sell it off and give our parking spaces to the UEA because there are insufficient parking space for their staff and workers within their plans? We need more parking spaces, not less. Do not deprive us of the opportunity to visit the Park which gives pleasure to all and allows us to relax in a natural environment. Enough is enough! It has to stop and it has to stop now!"

A response to the petition was given by Councillor Waters, deputy leader:

"A petition was received with in excess of 900 signatures against the transfer of the car park to the UEA. Following on from the receipt of the petition the council has also received a list of concerns that the organisers of the petition have. Whilst the report is below the line, because of the commercial nature of the transaction, we wish to assure the petitioners that members do have their list of their concerns and will take these into consideration when reaching a decision.

I will now specifically comment on each of the points raised:

a) The UEA should have incorporated their own car parking requirements under the enterprise centre

The design of the enterprise centre had to satisfy planning officers and planning committee in terms of scheme design and parking provision. This was best achieved through a combination of on-site enterprise centre parking for staff and shared use of the existing car park. The planning application process deals with these matters and took into account access using all modes of transport

b) 50% of the car parking spaces for 30 businesses in the Enterprise centre is not enough

What about the other employees?

Employee and visitor parking will be provided for within the enterprise centre allocation only. Additionally the UEA will introduce a parking protocol for the Enterprise centre which will encourage modes of transport other than the car in order to minimise car use.

What about folk who use the park?

The UEA were required to carry out surveys during term time and non term time in order to establish the current types and volumes of users of the car park. These surveys and the proposed parking provision were scrutinised and accepted by the council's principle transport planning officer and by the planning committee when considering the planning application.

Students take up a lot of the parking spaces

There is an issue with illegal parking on the site which the council does not have the resources to combat. In transferring the management of the car park to the UEA, they are felt best placed to remove the illegal parking which is considered mainly to be students attending lectures on campus.

Placing the management with the UEA will enable them to apply their considerable resource and to deal with the student offenders. The removal of this illegal parking will release sufficient capacity to accommodate the users of the park. The UEA will also refurbish the car park.

Pay to park when the car park was given to the citizens of Norwich

The lease will not permit the UEA to introduce a charge at any time without the express permission of the council.

The land was purchased by the council in 1925.

c) The survey is questioned by the petitioners and was carried out when the students were not on campus

Surveys were carried out during term time and non-term time to establish the impact of students on the use of the site. The surveys were scrutinised and accepted by both the principle transport planning officer and the planning committee.

Bollards have been placed by the entrance to the car park to prevent parking on the verges

This is a measure to protect the trees in readiness for construction site traffic using the road during the construction of the enterprise centre

d) UEA are to be given the car park to manage for 70-80 years

This is part of the commercial agreement to be discussed and is below the line

No guarantee could be given that the citizens of Norwich will not be charged for the public parking by the UEA during the course of the lease

The lease will not permit the UEA to introduce charging for the public without the express permission of the council.

e) UEA parking growth

The UEA has a green travel plan which takes into account its growth and which will not permit their students to use the public parking spaces. The lease with the council will require them to have a protocol in place for this car park with management controls to prevent student parking in the public spaces"

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were two declarations of interest, both for item 17, from Councillors Bremner and Waters.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2013.

5. CONSTITUTION REVIEW – POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK

Councillor Waters, deputy leader introduced the report.

RESOLVED to recommend that council:-

- (1) adopts the amendment to article 4 and revised appendix 2 of the constitution;
- (2) asks the head of law and governance to amend the council's constitution accordingly.

6. GREATER NORWICH CITY DEAL

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, introduced the report.

In response to a member's question, the leader said that any decisions would be taken by consensus, with full democratic accountability. She explained that the Local Enterprise Partnership is a conduit for resources and that the driving of policy will be done by Greater norwich authorities.

7. NORWICH ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2013 – 2018 CONSULTATION DRAFT

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to approve consultation on the draft economic strategy 2013 – 2018.

8. SOUTH CITY CENTRE VISION AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, introduced the report.

In response to a member's question, the planning officer confirmed that there were no indications of structural problems with Normandie Tower. He said that the intended cladding will improve appearance, energy efficiency and lifespan of the building.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) agree to publish the South City Centre Vision and Investment Plan; and,
- (2) agree to progress proposals for the Mountergate West areas follows:
 - a) phase 1- prepare a business case for a decked car park for further consideration by Cabinet
 - b) phase 2- work with the Homes and Communities Agency to bring forward detailed proposals for housing and commercial development on the remainder of the site.

9. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY – ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARGING SCHEDULE

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (paragraph 10) for Norwich;
- (2) agree to delegate any minor changes to the Charging Schedule for clarification purposes to the Deputy Chief Executive (operations);
- (3) agree the proposed implementation date of 15th July 2013; and,
- (4) agree the draft regulation 123 list as attached in appendix 2 to delegate any further changes to the list before the implementation date to the deputy chief executive (operations) in consultation with the leader.

10. QUARTER 4 2012 – 13 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

11. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT P12 (OUTTURN)

Councillor Waters, deputy leader introduced the report.

RESOLVED to note the draft revenue outturn for the year 2012/13.

12. APPROPRIATION OF PROPERTY

Councillor Waters, deputy leader introduced the report.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) ensure that the purpose for which the properties listed in paragraph 9 are held is for non-housing service provision;
- (2) ensure that the purpose for which the properties listed in paragraph 13 are held is for income generation and/or capital appreciation; and

- (3) approve the appropriation of these properties from the Housing Revenue Account to the General Fund to be effective from 1 April 2013.

13. HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY FEES

Councillor Stonard introduced the report.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) set a new home improvement agency fee of 18% to operate from the 1 July 2013 to 31 March 2015;
- (2) approve a cost-neutral change to the general fund revenue budget; and,
- (3) delegate to the deputy chief executive (operations) the power, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder to set a new fee following regular review.

14. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE ENERGY COMPANIES OBLIGATION FUNDED EFFICIENCY UPGRADE WORKS TO COUNCIL HOUSING PROPERTIES AND TENANT APPLICATIONS FOR “GREEN DEAL” INITIATIVES

Councillor Waters, deputy leader introduced the report.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) award a 3 year contract to Foster Property Maintenance Ltd for ECO funded insulation works to housing properties;
- (2) approve the commitment to spend up to £1m from the housing capital and revenue budgets in the current year (2013/14);
- (3) ensure that the Council temporarily does not allow housing tenants to take up Green Deal initiatives offered by external agencies until the wider strategy for the Green Deal is considered later this year; and
- (4) continue to include the provision of similar energy saving and carbon reduction measures as part of the Norwich Standard for investment in the housing stock.

15. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE STANDING LIST OF SUPPLIERS TO PROVIDE MINOR BUILDING WORKS EMANATING FROM THE HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY INITIATIVE

Councillor Waters, deputy leader introduced the report.

RESOLVED to approve the award of the contract and appointment of the suppliers detailed in appendix A, subject to the completion of final verification checks, for a period of two years from 1 July 2013.

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item *12 on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of schedule 12a of the local government act 1972 (as amended).

***17. MANAGING ASSETS**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader introduced the report. Councillors Waters and Bremner then left the room in accordance with their declarations of interest.

RESOLVED to approve the granting of a long lease to the University of East Anglia for Earlham Park car park in accordance with the terms set out within the report.

Councillors Waters and Bremner then rejoined the meeting.

***18. POTENTIAL DISPOSAL OF HOUSING ASSETS : SITE 1**

Councillor Bremner presented the report.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) approve the option to resettle the council tenants and to dispose of the freehold interest in the assets on the open market; the method of disposal being delegated to the Head of City Development Services;
- (2) approve the capital receipt from the disposal be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining our housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing; and,
- (3) delegates to the deputy chief executive (operations) authority to take all necessary and ancillary steps to achieve the above.

***19. POTENTIAL DISPOSAL OF HOUSING ASSETS : SITE 2**

Councillor Bremner presented the report.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) approve the option to resettle the council tenants and to dispose of the freehold interest in the assets on the open market; the method of disposal being delegated to the Head of City Development Services;
- (2) approve the capital receipt from the disposal be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining our housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing; and,
- (3) delegate to the deputy chief executive (operations) authority to take all necessary and ancillary steps to achieve the above.

***20. PURCHASE OF NEW BUILD HOUSING FOR SOCIAL RENT**

Councillor Stonard introduced the report.

In response to a member's question, the Head of city development services explained that the money to fund the purchase is coming from headroom within the housing revenue account. The money saved from contracting out the building work would be approximately £23, 000 per house.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) agree to the purchase of 23 new council dwellings for social rent on land at Brazen gate, off Southwell Road subject to planning consent and detailed contract negotiation;
- (2) note that council's approval will be required for the inclusion of £1,770,000 for this purchase in the 2013/14 capital plan and programme;
- (3) accept the provision by the developer of five shared equity properties; and
- (4) delegate to the deputy chief executive (operations) to take all necessary and ancillary steps to achieving the above.

CHAIR